

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

January 14, 2010

Present:

**Linda Noble Claudette Lussier Cheryl Ethier Sheila Chisholm Jay
O'Grady**

**Greg Leonard Carl Brunetti Bob Ericson Hagop Jawharjian Joe
Renning**

Absent:

John Picozzi

Call To Order

The meeting began at 7:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes

The Minutes of November 19th were distributed for review.

**Greg Leonard made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by
Jay O'Grady.**

The minutes were approved by a vote of 10-0.

Correspondence

**A copy of a letter from the Town Administrator was received, mainly
regarding the school budget and the fact that the town will be unable**

to make up for declining state aid this year.

Also received was a copy of a letter to the Finance Director regarding audit results.

Old Business

There was a School Committee budget meeting with Committee Chair Betty Robson and Superintendent Georgia Fortunato, which Linda Noble and Carl Brunetti attended.

They indicated that the trip to China that included some Administrators was very successful, and that they will be applying in the spring for a grant to begin the program.

There are currently 28 Special Education tuitions, and 33 charter school attendees which seemed to be of high concern.

The School Department had also met with the teachers' union regarding contract concessions.

The Budget Board discussed deviations of capital expenditures from what was approved for capital resolutions and the status of surplus/capital reserve.

The Schools' Business Manager does believe there will be a deficit in the School Budget of maybe \$300,000 even before any state aid cut backs

The School Department has also expressed concern about the 30% reimbursement they receive from the state for any capital

expenditures, and the fact that the Municipal Finance Department allocates those reimbursements to the Municipal Budget.

The School Department now receives enrollment numbers weekly from each of the schools.

The Budget Board will review municipal budget information for discussion at the next meeting.

New Business

The Budget Board discussed their tentative Meeting Calendar.

The Town Administrator's Recommended Budget submittal should be done electronically by February 15th as required by charter, and then the Budget Board will invite him to present it and speak about it briefly at their February 18th meeting.

Claudette Lussier will send letters to the School Superintendent and School Committee to invite them to the Budget Board meeting on March 3rd in order to answer questions and discuss their budget recommendations.

The Budget Board discussed the Schools' budget transition to a Uniform Chart of Accounts.

The school budget will be approved by the School Committee in the old format and then translated to the new chart of accounts, and the Budget Board will be provided with both versions.

The Budget Board discussed the upcoming Charter Review, and parts of it that may affect the budget process.

The Town Administrator had some suggested changes, including:

-Beginning the Financial Town Meeting at 6:30 pm to make it more convenient for people to attend.

The Budget Board discussed recommending a 6:30 or 7:00 start time.

-Quorum is currently 100 people for the meeting

The Town Administrator's suggestion is that if there is not a quorum, or if the meeting loses a quorum at any point prior to the conclusion, the budget passes as recommended by the Budget Board.

-In regards to advertising the annual public hearing of the budget, it was that the charter now says at least 2 newspapers must be notified, but that the Town Administrator's recommendation was to say 2 newspapers, if available, that serve Lincoln, and also electronically for general circulation.

-The Budget Board discussed having a limit, set by the charter, of how much money can be added to the recommended budget from the floor of the Financial Town Meeting, in the form of a specific amount or a percentage increase.

Discussed capital resolution, whether they could go over and how, people vote n it need to look at wording

Other

In regards to maintenance of effort, the Budget Board wanted to find out if the closing of Fairlawn Early Learning Center would mean a lower base budget.

Also Carl Brunetti will ask for current statistics of the Capital Reserve Account from the Finance Director.

Next Meeting

The Budget Board Meeting previously scheduled for January 21st was cancelled.

The next meeting of the Budget Board will be on Thursday, February 11th.

Adjourn

Greg Leonard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carl Brunetti.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.